

REMARKS

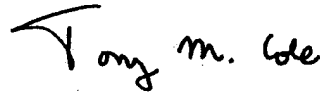
In the Office Action dated December 13, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 8, and 9 under U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,101,193 (hereinafter "OHBA"). The Examiner further rejected claim 4 under U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over OHBA in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,850,399 (hereinafter "GANMUKHI"). Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 11, 14, 15 and 18-23 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6, 7 and 10.

Applicants hereby amend claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 10, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. New claims 24 and 25 have further been added which include the subject matter of claims 6 and 7, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Claims 5-7 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In view of these amendments to the claims, only allowed or allowable claims remain pending in the application. Withdrawal of the rejections of the claims, and allowance of the application, are, therefore, respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. If any questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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